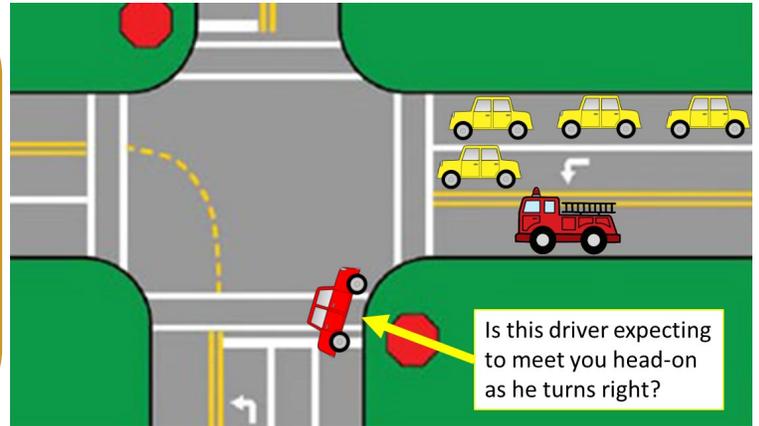




Did YOU know?

Opposing Traffic

Increased gridlock and lack of shoulders encourages use of the opposing lanes of traffic. This option should not be chosen lightly and requires the highest degree of caution.



- ⇒ Other vehicles are never expecting approaching emergency vehicles, but definitely not oncoming in their lane.
- ⇒ Unpredictable civilian drivers become even more unpredictable when coming head to head with an emergency vehicle. Which way will they yield? Will they yield?
- ⇒ How many drivers look for traffic coming from their right when turning right? Expect traffic that is coming from intersections to your left not to see you until they have turned into your lane. Their focus is to their left checking for traffic.
- ⇒ Forward-facing warning lights are generally the most intense. You are now aiming those lights right into the eyes of oncoming drivers who were already confused.
- ⇒ Which lane are you going to choose? Is it best to be in the far left lane, middle lane, or right lane of opposing traffic? What allows you the most space cushion to hazards?
- ⇒ How fast should you be going when opposing traffic? You've effectively cut your closing rate in half if the cars coming at you are doing the same speed as you.
- ⇒ What is your plan to return to the normal flow of traffic? Are you going to be trapped on the wrong side of a median as you arrive on scene? Where's your hydrant? How will you establish a work zone without a blocking unit?

The Officer needs to be heads-up scanning for hazards.
Crew resource management needs to be fully utilized.